

Regulation 61-1

Medical and Dental Scholarship

Disclaimer

DHEC provides this copy of the regulation for the convenience of the public and makes every effort to ensure its accuracy. However, this is an unofficial version of the regulation. The regulation's most recent final publication in the *South Carolina State Register* presents the official, legal version of the regulation.

Statutory Authority:	S.C. Code Sections 59-111-510 et seq.
----------------------	---------------------------------------

Regulation History as Published in State Register			
Date	Document Number	Volume	Issue
May 25, 1974	-	-	-

1. **Public Notice:** As soon as the initial appropriation to the Fund is approved by the Governor, and at appropriate intervals (at least annually) thereafter, the Office of Communications of the Department of Health and Environmental Control shall send a news release to all news media in South Carolina and nearby communities describing the availability of scholarship funds, the persons eligible, the contractual obligations to be assumed by successful applicants, and the address for application forms and information.
2. **Assignment of Responsibility in Department:** The Commissioner shall designate an office in the Department to be responsible for distribution of application forms approved by the Board, for collection of completed forms, and for performing other staff functions related to the operation of the Fund.
3. **Deadline for Receipt of Applications:** The Board may set from time to time appropriate dates after which no more applications will be accepted for a particular granting period. In order that all applicants be given equal consideration, such deadlines will allow adequate time for processing the applications prior to final selection of successful applicants by the Board.
4. **Legal Residency in South Carolina:** South Carolina residency shall be established in accordance with the principles of § 59-101-70, S.C. Code, as amended, which currently provides in part as follows: “Persons who have been domiciled in South Carolina for a period no less than twelve months with an intention of making a permanent home therein, including persons in their majority, emancipated minors and unemancipated minors whose parents have been domiciled in this State for no less than twelve months with an intention of making a permanent home herein may be considered South Carolina residents, provided that where the parents of an unemancipated minor are living apart or are separated, divorced, or deceased, the residency of the child shall be determined by the place of domicile of the parent or legal guardian with whom the child normally resides. Students making application for residency status shall have the burden of proving that these requirements are met.”
5. **Investigation of Fitness of Applicants:** The office designated in paragraph 2 shall make a careful and full investigation of the ability, character and qualifications of each applicant to determine his fitness. The office shall submit a written summary of its findings on each applicant to the Board through the Commissioner. This investigation shall include a sharing of information pertaining to the applicant with the medical or dental school(s) which has accepted him for enrollment and a visit to his home community contacting his family, his church, his school, his credit references, law enforcement authorities, and other knowledgeable persons. Each applicant shall be required to sign a release form authorizing any person or agency having information about his ability, character and qualifications to release such information to the Board or its agents.
6. **Appearance before Board:** The Board may examine each applicant to assist in determining if he is qualified.
7. **Duration of Loan or Scholarship:** Each loan or scholarship shall be for a period of one year. However, recipients of a loan or scholarship who successfully complete the related year of study shall have first priority on unobligated funds for renewal of the loan or scholarship for the succeeding year.
8. **Amount of Loan or Scholarship:** Each loan or scholarship shall consist of two parts: (1) Payment of tuition and other school related expenses up to a total of \$5000 per year, and (2) an allowance of \$100 per month for living expenses.

9. Practice Selection: Each loan or scholarship shall be based upon the condition that on or before six months from the date the applicant completes one year of internship he engage in the general practice of medicine or dentistry in a county within the State which has a doctor ratio of not more than one doctor for each two thousand people or a dentist ratio of not more than one dentist for each four thousand people. The Department shall keep a list of the counties having such ratios and the applicant may choose which of these counties he desires to practice in.

10. Determination of Doctor and Dentist Ratios: The number of doctors and dentists practicing in counties shall be primarily based on the latest data from the State Board of Medical Examiners and the State Board of Dentistry pertaining to practitioners licensed and registered by these Boards. The Board of Health and Environmental Control may also take into consideration the Federal physicians assigned in the counties inasmuch as the people they serve are included in the population of the counties. The population used in calculating the ratios shall be the estimate of the Research and Statistical Services Division of the Budget and Control Board closest to the time of assembly of the information from which the number of professionals is derived.

11. Repayment of Loan or Scholarship: For each year during which an applicant benefits from a loan or scholarship he shall be required to engage in practice as defined in paragraph 9 for one year. Such work shall in addition constitute a repayment of the loan or scholarship. Applicants who receive a scholarship or loan for four years shall only be required to practice in such a county for three years, at the end of which time the loan shall be considered paid in full. Where the Board is convinced that there is justifiable cause which the applicant could not have foreseen, the Board may allow him to repay the loan or scholarship by paying in cash the full amount of the loan or scholarship, plus 7% interest per year compounded semiannually.

12. Contracts with Applicants: Before being granted a loan or scholarship, each applicant shall enter into a contract with the Board, agreeing to the terms and conditions upon which the loan or scholarship shall be granted to him. The contract shall include terms and provisions to carry out the purpose and intent of paragraphs 7 through 10 and 14 of these regulations. It shall be signed by the chairman of the Board, countersigned by the executive secretary of the Board, and signed by the applicant.

13. Contracts with Professional Schools: The Board may make arrangements and execute contracts with approved medical or dental schools for the admission of students granted loans or scholarships by the Board. Such contracts may provide for the payment of tuition and other school related expenses directly to the schools. The Board, upon proper notice, may cancel any contract made with such institutions.

14. Failure of Recipient to Fulfill Contract: If the recipient of a scholarship fails without justifiable cause to practice medicine or dentistry in accordance with the terms of his contract, three times the entire amount of the scholarship benefits received, plus 7% interest per year compounded semiannually shall become due and payable. However, if the Board determines there is justifiable cause for the failure to practice pursuant to the terms of the contract, it may relieve the recipient of the obligation to practice according to the terms of the contract, and shall provide for repayment of the amount received, plus 7% interest per year on any terms it may deem proper. Upon recommendation and request of the Board, the Attorney General shall institute proceedings for the purpose of recovering any amount due the State upon breach of the contract.

15. Receipts and Expenditures: Funds appropriated and all sums received in repayment of loans and scholarships shall be placed in the State Treasury to the credit of the South Carolina Medical and Dental Scholarship Fund. Loan and scholarship payments shall be paid out of this fund upon a voucher to the State Comptroller General signed by the chairman and the executive secretary of the Board.